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SAMHSA SOAR AUGUST 2020 ENEWS

Download Today: Supplemental Security Income for Children Fact Sheet Series

The SAMHSA SOAR TA Center is pleased to release the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Children fact sheet series to the field! This suite of six fact sheets provides an at-a-glance look at how different entities can apply the SOAR model to assist children (under age 18) who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder to apply for SSI.

The six highlighted entities in this fact sheet series are the following:

- Youth providers
- Parents and caregivers
- Health and behavioral health providers
- Family shelters and homeless service providers
- Education systems
- Child welfare

SOARWORKS for Children **SAMHSA**

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Children:
What is it, who is it for, and how can **Health and Behavioral Health Providers** help?

How can SSI for children help?

- Stabilizing income for children in your programs who are at-risk of or experiencing homelessness
- Enhanced health insurance coverage (Medicaid)

Who is eligible?

- Children (birth to age 18 attainment) with a physical or mental impairment that causes marked or severe functional limitations
- Children and families with low income and resources
- Note: Unmarried children who live with their parents (who do not receive SSI) may have a portion of their parents' income and resources considered

How can I contribute and help a child access resources?

- Identify children who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness who have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder
- Identify staff to complete the SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum and assist youth with completing the SSI application using the SOAR model
- Write a letter documenting the child's limitations in functioning and supportive services provided
- Gather medical evidence, such as hospital or clinic records and psychiatric evaluations, and arrange for additional testing as needed
- Collaborate with State and Local SOAR Leads, SSA, and DDS

What resources are available?

- Understanding SSI for Children: <https://www.samhsa.gov/soar/child-ssi>
- SOAR Directory: <https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/soar/contact-us>
- SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum: The course is a great resource for health care and behavioral health providers that are interested in learning about the Social Security Disability process, and understanding the medical and functional information that is needed to successfully apply for SSI

The SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Technical Assistance (TA) Center is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and is a national program designed to increase access to the disability income benefit programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) for eligible adults and children who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder.

Contact with your state SOAR contacts

Contact SOAR: soar@samhsa.gov | (800) 457-7432 x2 | <https://www.samhsa.gov/soar>

SOARWORKS for Children **SAMHSA**

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Children:
What is it, who is it for, and how can **Parents** help?

How can SSI for children help?

- Stabilizing income for your family and child(ren)
- Income that can be used for supportive services (i.e. therapies, childcare)
- Enhanced health insurance coverage (Medicaid)

Who is eligible?

- Children (birth to age 18 attainment) with a physical or mental impairment that causes marked or severe functional limitations
- Children and families with low income and resources
- Note: Unmarried children who live with their parents (who do not receive SSI) may have a portion of their parents' income and resources considered

How can I contribute and help a child access resources?

- Find a SOAR provider in your community and talk to them about your child's needs
- Provide information about your child's functioning while at school, at home, at the doctor's, etc.
- Help identify additional sources of medical or educational documentation
- Connect with family peer networks in your area
- If interested, review or complete the SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum

What resources are available?

- Understanding SSI for Children: <https://www.samhsa.gov/soar/child-ssi>
- SOAR Directory: <https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/soar/contact-us>
- SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum: The course is a great resource for parents to learn about SSI, the process for applying, and how they can become connected with resources

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SOARWORKS for Children **SAMHSA**

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Children:
What is it, who is it for, and how can **Youth Providers** help?

How can SSI for children help?

- Stabilizing income for unaccompanied youth
- Income that can be used for housing or other supportive services
- Health insurance coverage (Medicaid)

Who is eligible?

- Children (birth to age 18 attainment) with a physical or mental impairment that causes marked or severe functional limitations
- Children, youth, and families with low income and resources
- Note: Unmarried children who live with their parents (who do not receive SSI) may have a portion of their parents' income and resources considered

How can I contribute and help a child access resources?

- Identify youth who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness who have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder
- Identify staff to complete the SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum and assist youth with completing the SSI application using the SOAR model
- If your agency is not able to fully complete the SOAR process, assist the applicant with gathering evidence to support their claim such as medical evidence (e.g., hospital or clinic records and psychiatric evaluations) as well as letters from teachers and evaluations of needs; provide written documentation of the youth's limitations and functioning as well as the supportive services you provide
- Collaborate with the State and Local SOAR Leads, SSA, and DDS

What resources are available?

- Understanding SSI for Children: <https://www.samhsa.gov/soar/child-ssi>
- SOAR Directory: <https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/soar/contact-us>
- SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum: The course is a great resource for providers who are interested in learning about the Social Security Disability process or are interested in assisting children and families with applying for SSI

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SOARWORKS for Children **SAMHSA**

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Children:
What is it, who is it for, and how can **Child Welfare** help?

How can SSI for children help?

- Stabilizing income for children in your system who are at risk of experiencing homelessness
- Enhanced health insurance coverage (Medicaid)

Who is eligible?

- Children (birth to age 18 attainment) with a physical or mental impairment that causes marked or severe functional limitations
- Children and families with low income and resources
- Note: Unmarried children who live with their parents (who do not receive SSI) may have a portion of their parents' income and resources considered

How can I contribute and help a child access resources?

- Identify children who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness who have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder
- Identify staff to complete the SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum and assist children and families with completing the SSI application using the SOAR model
- Write a letter documenting the child's limitations in functioning and supportive services provided
- Collaborate with State and Local SOAR Leads, SSA, and DDS

What resources are available?

- Understanding SSI for Children: <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/child-ssi-101.pdf>
- SOAR Directory: <https://soarworks.org/soar-directory/>
- SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum: The course is a great resource for child welfare agencies that are interested in learning about the Social Security Disability process, assisting children and families with applying for SSI, or be able to identify and successfully refer potential SOAR applicants to SOAR trained case workers <https://soarworks.org/soar-online-course/child-curriculum/>

The SOAR Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Technical Assistance (TA) Center is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and is a national program designed to increase access to the disability income benefit programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) for eligible adults and children who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder.

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SOARWORKS for Children **SAMHSA**

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Children:
What is it, who is it for, and how can **The Education System** help?

How can SSI for children help?

- Stabilizing income for children (and their families) in your district who are at risk of experiencing homelessness

Who is eligible?

- Children (birth to age 18 attainment) with a physical or mental impairment that causes marked or severe functional limitations
- Children and families with low income and resources
- Note: Unmarried children who live with their parents (who do not receive SSI) may have a portion of their parents' income and resources considered

How can I contribute and help a child access resources?

- Identify children who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness who have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder
- Fill out an SSA 5665 Teacher Questionnaire (when requested by SOAR case worker or DDS)
- Write a letter documenting the child's limitations in functioning and supportive services provided when requested by who DDS or the SOAR case worker
- Assist with gathering educational evidence, such as: Individualized Education Program (IEP) records, IEP testing, special education services, school counseling, disciplinary reports
- Gather medical evidence, such as hospital or clinic records and psychiatric evaluations, and arrange for additional testing as needed
- Identify couriers or staff that could assist families and SOAR Leads or case workers with the application process

What resources are available?

- Understanding SSI for Children: <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/child-ssi-101.pdf>
- National Center for Homeless Education: <https://nche.org/>
- SOAR Directory: <https://soarworks.org/soar-directory/>
- SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum: The course is a great resource for education providers and organizations who are interested in learning about the Social Security Disability process or are interested in assisting children and families with applying for SSI <https://soarworks.org/soar-online-course/child-curriculum/>

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SOARWORKS for Children **SAMHSA**

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Children:
What is it, who is it for, and how can **Family Shelters/ Homeless Service Providers** help?

How can SSI for children help?

- Stabilizing income for families to help them exit the homeless service system
- Enhanced health insurance coverage (Medicaid)

Who is eligible?

- Children (birth to age 18 attainment) with a physical or mental impairment that causes marked or severe functional limitations
- Children and families with low income and resources
- Note: Unmarried children who live with their parents (who do not receive SSI) may have a portion of their parents' income and resources considered

How can I contribute and help a child access resources?

- Identify children who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness who have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder
- Identify housing, employment, and education resources
- Connect with treatment and support groups for the child and parent/caregiver
- Assist with other supportive service needs, such as food assistance and other maintenance benefits for which the child and/or family may qualify
- Identify staff to complete the SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum and assist children and families with completing the SSI application using the SOAR model
- Collaborate with State and Local SOAR Leads, SSA, and DDS

What resources are available?

- Understanding SSI for Children: <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/child-ssi-101.pdf>
- SOAR Directory: <https://soarworks.org/soar-directory/>
- SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum: The course is a great resource for family shelters and providers who are interested in learning about the Social Security Disability process, assisting children and families with applying for SSI, or being able to identify and successfully refer potential SOAR applicants to SOAR trained case workers in the community <https://soarworks.org/soar-online-course/child-curriculum/>

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Child Welfare

Education

Family Shelters and Homeless Service Providers

Each fact sheet provides an at-a-glance overview of the following sections:

- How can SSI can assist eligible children
- Eligibility requirements
- Ways in which the entity can contribute and help a child access resources
- Available resources

The SSI for Children fact sheet series is a great tool to share with providers who may be unfamiliar with SSI for children and the SOAR model. Distribute these flyers among your partners and providers to share the power of SOAR for children!

Download the Fact Sheet Series

Sharing Our Successes

California Man and His Family SOAR with the Medical Summary Report

Sandi Holland from Lutheran Social Services in Sacramento, California, wrote in to share this wonderful SOAR success:

“John’s* health issues left his family with a small income that would have led to homelessness. I worked with him on his disability benefit application, and it was simple. As soon as the Medical Summary Report (MSR) was submitted, John’s application was approved! Due to John’s age at the time of his original diagnosis, he was awarded maximum SSDI and received back pay to the date of his diagnosis. With that monthly income and his eligibility for Medi-Cal, John’s wife was able to establish an In-Home Support Services income to help support him and the family.”



What an incredible story, Sandi! When asked about her words of advice for new SOAR practitioners, Sandi noted that the MSR made the disability benefit process so much quicker. Thanks, Sandi! Learn how to write a quality MSR with [this resource on the SOARWorks website!](#)

Applicant's Courage and SOAR Provider's Assistance Lead to Success in Florida

DeAnna O'Flaherty from Flagler Cares in Flagler Beach, Florida, shared this incredible SOAR success story:



“Jim* was a small, quiet man who had made his living as a contractor and house painter. He had developed severe anxiety and breathing problems after a life of tragic events that left him with few people in his life with whom to turn. He was living with a friend when I met him on Halloween 2019, but by Christmas day, he was living in a tent behind a big-box store. He was bashful and uncomfortable when describing his history with someone he had just met. We took it slow, and I tried to reassure him at every chance that this uncomfortable process would be one of the few times his painful memories would help him get what he needed.

Jim and I had to review dates and timelines multiple times. In my SOAR work, I find it helps to have a conversation with the applicant about their history and to make notes of key dates. I then help the applicant arrange the events in timeline order by asking, ‘Did that happen before or after this event?’ It all falls into place eventually. I went into the wooded area where Jim lived many times to get forms and questionnaires completed for his application and his two consultative exam appointments.

Jim mustered a lot of courage to follow through with those taxi rides to another county to talk to a doctor he had never met before. In addition to his disability benefit application, we worked together on a mainstream housing voucher application, aiming to get him into housing as soon as he was awarded benefits. The COVID-19 pandemic had closed Social Security offices to in-person appointments, but we worked hard to get his appointment moved to a phone call.

The Disability Determination Services worker called me on March 6, 2020, and said the file had been transferred back to the Social Security office. I asked if he could tell me the outcome. He sighed and said, ‘No, but you can make assumptions.’ I smiled so hard and really wanted to cry. As soon as we could, we assisted Jim in opening a bank account at a branch near his camp. He was so proud to be expecting an income and to have his account information ready for the pre-effectuation review conference (PERC) appointment.

On March 20, 2020, less than 5 months after we first met, Jim had his PERC appointment and was awarded benefits, including 5 months of back pay. He cried and thanked me. A few hours later, at 5:00 p.m. on a Friday, the Housing Authority called to tell me Jim had been awarded a mainstream housing voucher and would pay just \$112 a month for a brand-new 1-bedroom apartment.

After his award, Jim stayed a few nights in a hotel and, overwhelmed by his new options, he lost touch for a week. I was a little worried about him, but it was a good reminder that when someone gets benefits, it can be a bit overwhelming to take it all in. Jim has since completed the application for the new housing and is awaiting building completion.”

Thank you for submitting this fantastic success story, DeAnna!

*Sharing Our Successes stories are edited for brevity and clarity. All client names have been changed to protect anonymity.

SOAR Jobs

Texas

Primrose Health Solutions is seeking a full-time SOAR Case Manager based in Desoto, Texas. The successful candidate will assist with SSI/SSDI disability benefit applications for individuals with serious mental illness who are at risk of experiencing homelessness.

Learn more about this job posting on the [SOARWorks website](#). Do you have a job posting you would like to share with the SOAR community? Submit it to the [SAMHSA SOAR TA Center](#)!

Events

SOARing Over Lunch Conference Calls

August 18, 2020, 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET

The next SOARing Over Lunch Conference Call will take place on August 18, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. ET! The SAMHSA SOAR TA Center hosts this series of informal monthly calls designed to help support SOAR efforts across the country. Participants can join to ask about any SOAR-related question they may have.

Add SOARing Over Lunch to Your Calendar

In Case You Missed It: SOAR Webinars on SAMHSA's YouTube Channel

Did you know that the SAMHSA SOAR TA Center's webinars are hosted on the SAMHSA YouTube channel? You can watch the webinars at your own pace and at a time that works for you! SAMHSA's YouTube channel has a SOAR Webinars playlist that houses recent webinars such as *SOAR and Criminal Justice System Implementation*, *Using the SOAR Model with Social Security Administration Appeals*, and *Medical Summary Report Summer Camp*. Supplemental links for more information are provided for each webinar recording.

View the SOAR Webinar Playlist

Get Social with the SAMHSA SOAR TA Center

Hear more about what SAMHSA SOAR is up to via [@samhsagov](#) on Twitter, [@samhsa](#) on Facebook, and [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) on LinkedIn!

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) 115,771 followers
1mo •

CASE WORKERS: The SAMHSA SOAR TA Center has a refreshed resource for case workers: The Appeals Toolkit. The toolkit includes key tools and resources to improve your knowledge of SSI/SSDI appeals and Administrative Law Judge hearings. <https://lnkd.in/eC3bNRH>



Submitting SSI/SSDI Appeals Using the SOAR Model: A Toolkit for Case Managers | SOAR Works!

soanworks.prainc.com • 1 min read

11

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) 115,772 followers
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PROVIDERS, In Case You Missed It: Check out the SAMHSA SOAR TA Center Webinar "Implementation During #COVID19 Response."

SOAR providers discuss innovative ways to provide SOAR services while keeping safe physical/social distance during the COVID-19 pandemic. Presenters also share how they are using new (and old) ways of communication to keep SSI/SSDI applications moving forward. <https://lnkd.in/g7dtkhz>



COVID-19 Resources for SOAR Providers | SOAR Works!

soanworks.prainc.com • 4 min read

2

Federal Update

42 CFR Part 2 Revised Rule Released

The 42 CFR Part 2 regulations (Part 2) serve to protect patient records created by federally assisted programs for the treatment of substance use disorders (SUD). Part 2 has been revised to further facilitate better coordination of care in response to the opioid epidemic while maintaining its confidentiality protections against unauthorized disclosure and use. The revised rule modifies several sections of Part 2, including consent requirements.

Under the revision, a SUD patient may consent to the disclosure of the patient's Part 2 treatment records to an entity (e.g., the Social Security Administration), without naming a specific person as the recipient for the disclosure.



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Technical Assistance (TA) Center is sponsored by SAMHSA, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Disclaimer: The SAMHSA SOAR Technical Assistance Center is sending this eNews with support from SAMHSA, HHS. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official view of HHS or SAMHSA.

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